

Frequently Asked Questions The National Immunization Survey (NIS)

1. What does assessment of vaccination coverage mean?

Assessment of vaccination coverage is the ongoing systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of health data related to vaccination. It includes monitoring trends, detecting and describing problems in vaccination coverage, and establishing hypotheses to be tested in more refined research designs.

2. Why measure vaccination coverage?

Data on vaccination coverage is used:

- a. to identify groups at risk of vaccine preventable diseases;
- b. to provide feedback coverage in an effort to increase coverage; and
- c. to evaluate the effectiveness of programs designed to increase coverage.

3. How are data collected?

In addition to CDC's National Immunization Survey (<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/coverage/sources.htm#NIS>), other mechanisms also are used to collect vaccination coverage data. These include:

- a. National Health Information Survey (<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/coverage/sources.htm/NIS>);
- b. School surveys (<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/coverage/sources.htm#School SurveysNIS>);
- c. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) (<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/coverage/sources.htm#BRFSS>); and
- d. Other methods utilized by state and local health departments. For more information regarding the state and local health department methods, please contact the state or local immunization program(s).

Overall, data collection consists of either self-report of vaccination history and/or a review of immunization provider's medical records. In the case of school surveys, information is obtained from student immunization records.

For further information, please visit the National Immunization Survey website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/coverage>.